

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

The original minutes for the period during which Kim Fernie - VE3EFW was Secretary Treasurer are not available. This, and other missing minutes have been compiled from the relevant issue of High-Q, Jim - VE3UA.

The 12 December meeting commenced at 8:12 following a long wait for access after the keeper of the keys forgot to bring them.

Two guests for the evening were Mr. Paul Werk, EMO and Mr. Ivan Mongrain of North Star Electric. The following 20 members and friends attended as well:

Les Harris - VE3AYZ,	Walter Dueck - VE3EFI,	Mike Mitt,
Kim Fernie - VE3EFW,	Stan Chorley - VE3ECR,	Hughie MacDonald,
Bill Goodfellow - VE3GOD,	Jim "JC" Bailey - VE3DGZ,	C. Barbaro,
Frank Start - VE3AJ,	Peter Boyle - VE3DPJ,	S. Pletko,
Ray Forslund - VE3EDZ,	Bill Klemacki - VE3EEW,	John Deveyanyi; and
Hugh Elliott - VE3EDW,	D. Hunchak,	J. Lowing.
Steve Bush - VE3EBS,	Adolph Karasiewicz,	

Frank Start - VE3AJ was congratulated on his retirement following 45 years employment with the Canadian Marconi Company. Frank's retirement is effective in January 1969.

The chief topic for this gathering was the demonstration of closed circuit television by Mr. Mongrain. The use of portable TV gear is becoming quite popular as can be seen by the vast sales area covered by Mr. Mongrain. He travels throughout the area between Manitoba and North Bay. One of the major marketing areas for portable and fixed Video Tape Recorders is Educational TV, where it is proving to be of great benefit as the same tapes can be played back a few hundred times without change in quality. The advantages here are obvious as a single instructor can teach an almost unlimited number of students at one time. All that is required is a few TV receivers.

All the units demonstrated, and most others (North Star Electric sells Sony), use modular methods of construction, where entire circuits are replaced in this area, and faulty boards are sent to Vancouver for repair. This is known as 'black box technology'. Integrated circuits are also now coming into their own in this type of equipment, resulting in a very small electronic 'guts', with a resultant decrease in size and weight. Only a few tubes are used in these units, and even these are being phased out as solid state technology advances.

One of the more interesting units demonstrated was a 10 pound battery operated unit, complete with audio system. The camera with attached mike was only slightly larger than the usual 8 mm movie camera. The accompanying VTR is carried on a shoulder strap. Playback from this unit was quite good, even under the lighting conditions in the Civil Defence Building. The prospects of using one of these units at Field Day are quite intriguing!

Most of the units are equipped with slow motion and stop action features.

The tapes are fairly expensive, running about \$75.00 but they can be used over 300 times. This is the guarantee, and the picture quality will not deteriorate. The VTR's can be connected to any TV set, just ahead of the video detector.

There are approximately 30 of these Sony VTR's in this area, and with an adaptor, they can be used for colour TV.

Price wise, the portable VTR runs about \$1500.00 and the camera is about \$600.00. Some VTR's are available for less than \$1000.00, with a good camera running in the \$300.00 range. The prices of this type of equipment has dropped

rapidly over the past couple of years, and now the manufacturers hope that they will be able to compete with 8 mm movies, in the near future.

Members who were not out for this meeting missed a good one, and our thanks go to Mr. Mongrain for taking the time from his busy schedule, to put on this demonstration; thanks also to North Star Electric and to Bill Roberts - VE3ARN for making the arrangements.

The business portion commenced after a short break, the subject of another set of manuals for the beginners came up. These would be printed from the stencils on file, amounting to about 70 pages of necessary info for the beginner to get his first ticket. Stan Chorley - VE3ECR moved and Peter Boyle - VE3DPJ seconded that the Club purchase enough materials to print them, the number to be left to the Executive, and also to investigate the economic factors involved.

The business of the antenna for search operations was left in the hands of Bill Klemacki - VE3EEW.

The last item on the agenda was the problem of the beginner in the Club. It was felt generally that they were not receiving enough help from the members, possibly because they were not approaching the Club with any difficulties they might be having with code of theory. As Mike Mitt put it, "It's just a matter of the aspirant finding the launching pad." The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club could be such a launching pad. The possibility of weekly instruction sessions was put forth, but nothing final was decided. More at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 for coffee.